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Agenda items 35 and 40

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Identical letters dated 4 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement dated 3 April 2016 issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan regarding the recent large-scale military provocations by the armed forces of Armenia on the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan (see annex).

In its latest provocation, Armenia deliberately both attacked the civilian population in a densely populated area in the territories adjacent to the front line and opened intensive heavy weapons fire at the positions of Azerbaijan's armed forces. Moreover, Armenia has deployed additional missile and artillery units in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In addition, Armenia has conducted intensive military helicopter shuttle flights between its own territory and the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The continuous occupation of a large part of the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the armed forces of Armenia remains the main obstacle in the settlement of the conflict and the only source of the escalation of the situation on the front line and the occurrence of hostilities and casualties.

The international community, in particular the United Nations, should demand that Armenia, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), withdraw immediately, completely and unconditionally all its occupying forces from all occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 and 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the identical letters dated 4 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

On 2 April 2016, Armenia, targeting civilians in a densely populated area in the territories adjacent to the front line, opened intensive heavy weapons fire at the positions of Azerbaijan's armed forces along the line of contact. As a result of the artillery attacks of Armenian armed forces, a number of civilians were killed or seriously wounded. Substantial damages were also inflicted upon the private and public properties.

The armed forces of Azerbaijan have taken the necessary countermeasures within its internationally recognized borders to ensure the safety of the civilian population, to stop the provocations of Armenia and to deter it from further acts of aggression. Currently, the situation remains tense. Shelling of Azerbaijan's positions along the line of contact with heavy weapons, including with artillery, continues.

Armenia, in an attempt to reinforce its heavy artillery in the occupied territories, has deployed additional rocket and artillery forces and its military helicopters have conducted intensive shuttle flights between the occupied territories and Armenia.

Over the past years, such violations and armed provocations of Armenia as attacking and killing Azerbaijani military personnel as well as civilians with the use of mortars and large-calibre machine guns and artillery, have become more frequent and violent.

Armenia's desperate attempts to blame Azerbaijan for the escalation of the situation on the front line are aimed at misleading its own people and the wider international community.

Azerbaijan has repeatedly brought to the attention of the international community that the illegal presence of Armenian armed forces in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan remains the main cause for the escalation of the situation and continues to pose a threat to peace and stability in the region. Armenia, through consistent provocations and escalation of the situation, the strengthening of its military build-up in the occupied territories, illegally changing the demographic, cultural and physical character of the seized lands and engaging in unlawful economic and other activities, including the transfer of Armenian populations into these territories, is pursuing an apparent goal of the annexation of Azerbaijan's territories and the consolidation of the status quo, which is unacceptable and unsustainable, as also stated by the Heads of State of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group Co-Chairs. It is Armenia that also blocks all initiatives of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, including the recent proposals of the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sergey Lavrov, to derail the negotiation process. It once again proves that the Yerevan officials are not genuinely interested in seeking a political settlement of the armed conflict.

The fundamental basis for the settlement of the conflict is set out in Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993) and General Assembly resolution 62/243, which condemn the use of force against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories and reaffirm the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the inviolability of its internationally recognized borders. In those resolutions, the United Nations reaffirmed that the Nagorno-Karabakh region is an inalienable part of Azerbaijan and demanded the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

The military occupation of the territory of Azerbaijan does not represent a solution and will never produce a political outcome desired by Armenia. The sooner Armenia reconciles with this reality, the sooner the conflict will be resolved and the countries and peoples in the region will benefit from the prospects of cooperation and economic development.

Azerbaijan calls upon the international community to demand that Armenia cease the illegal occupation of Azerbaijan's territories, withdraw its troops from all seized lands and engage constructively in the conflict settlement process in accordance with the requirements of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the norms and principles of international law.

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Security Council

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Agenda item 34
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 5 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a statement issued on 3 April 2016 by a spokesperson for the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with regard to the hostile policy pursued by the United States against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (see annex).*

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ja Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

Annex to the letter dated 5 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement issued by a spokesperson for the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Pyongyang, April 3 (KCNA) -- The spokesperson for the National Defence Commission (NDC) of the DPRK issued a statement on Sunday, 3 April 2016 in connection with the fact that the U.S. and other hostile forces are making last-ditch efforts to attack the former in a flock to swallow it up.

The statement said:

The U.S. and hostile forces' frantic racket to stifle the DPRK has reached an unprecedented phase.

The Leningrad blockade which struck terror into the hearts of people as a pronoun of the harshest sanction in the world history of wars and the Caribbean crisis in the Cold War era can hardly stand comparison with the situation prevailing on the Korean peninsula at present.

What is ridiculous is that the U.S. is still not aware that the hostility it has persistently pursued towards the DPRK for over a century since the start of its stand-off with the latter is so anachronistic and suicidal one that it precipitates its self-destruction.

It is a hard reality that the U.S. illegal "high-profile sanctions" reinforces the persevering will of the servicepersons and people of the DPRK, the former's outrageous military pressure makes them hold more tightly Songun as an all-powerful treasured sword to annihilate the enemies and the former's terrible moves to "bring down the social system" prompt the latter to make a giant leap forward in the drive to build the greatest power in the world.

Those, who blindly yielded to the brigandish demands of the U.S. which lorded it over our planet through high-handed and arbitrary practices, domination and hegemony and backed it in its hostile moves against the DPRK veiled with "UN resolution," made a mess of their precious legacy and tradition for which nothing can compensate.

The NDC of the DPRK would like to tell the whole world what consequences the U.S. and its followers' reckless hostile moves against the DPRK have brought to this land through a fierce uncompromising confrontation between independence and subjugation, justice and injustice and progress and reactionary.

The brigandish U.S. imperialists and their allies' barbarous "harshest sanctions" to completely stifle the DPRK economically turned Juche Korea into a matchless great power based on the principle of independence, self-reliance and self-development.

The U.S. imperialists' unprecedented moves for a war of aggression against the DPRK to stifle it militarily created the worst crisis in which it may make a retaliatory nuclear strike at the U.S. mainland any moment.

The U.S. and its allies' moves to "bring down the social system of the DPRK" by splitting and destabilizing it are entailing the consequences of reducing the rotten and ailing capitalist system to dregs of history as it has lived out its days.

Though all hues of hostile forces in the world come in attack on the DPRK with desperate efforts, they can never hold in check the dynamic advance of the great Paektusan nation along the Songun highway of sure victory under the leadership of the peerless Songun brilliant commander.

Mankind will be pleased to see how the great Paektusan nation will remain shining as a beacon of independence and symbol of justice and truth.